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Southeast Idaho UPDATE



EPA's Newsletter for the Pocatello and Fort Hall Areas

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and local governments all share the responsibility for protecting the quality of land, water, and air in Southeast Idaho. EPA periodically publishes this newsletter to help keep you informed about the work we are doing in your area.

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**National Water
Monitoring Day:
Order Your Test Kit Now**

See page 2 for details...

**Brownfields grant
proposals due to EPA
by December 16th**

See page 2 for more information...

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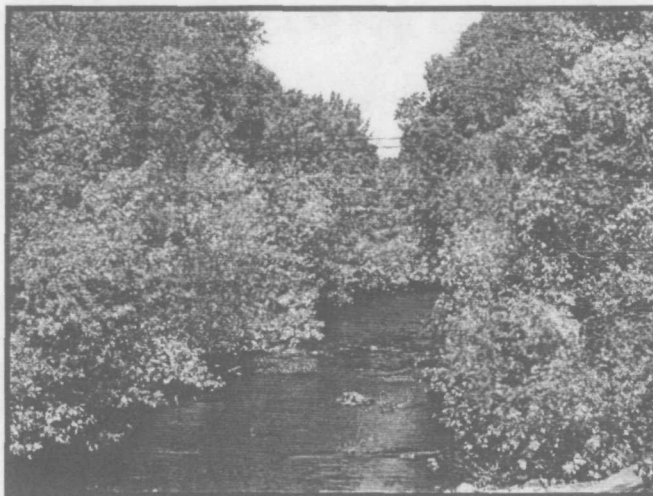
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Test the health of your local lake or stream

Order your Water Monitoring Kit by October 25th

Congress has proclaimed 2002 as the "Year of Clean Water" to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water Act. This month's events will be highlighted by National Water Monitoring Day on October 18th, when low cost water monitoring kits will be made available to families, classrooms, civic organizations and service clubs to sample their local lakes and streams for certain water quality parameters.

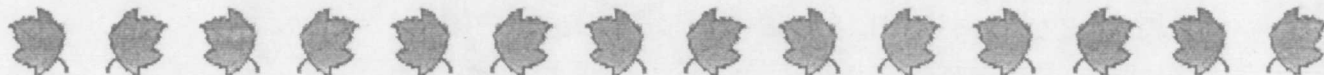
EPA is partnering with America's Clean Water Foundation to provide the water monitoring kits, which are available through the Year of Clean Water website at www.yearofcleanwater.org. Participants will also be able to register their monitoring location on the website and post the results from their tests. Although people are encouraged to conduct their testing on October 18th, results from water tests collected through



Signs of fall along the Portneuf River - - October is National Water Monitoring Month!

October 27th may be posted at the site. The last day to order a test kit is October 25th, so don't delay!

In celebration of the Year of Clean Water, EPA has been highlighting a different water-related theme each month to help increase public awareness about water issues. In August, the theme was water conservation, September was watersheds, and October focuses on water monitoring.



A Brownfields grant can help revitalize your community!

Proposals due to EPA by December 16th

Brownfields grants can help your community assess contamination at underused properties, clean up contaminated sites, fund job training related to brownfields cleanups – and revitalize!

EPA is seeking proposals from government entities and non-profits for brownfields assessment, cleanup, and job training grants. These grants provide funding and revitalization opportunities for communities interested in returning contaminated (or potentially contaminated) properties to reuse. Assessment, revolving loan fund, and cleanup grant proposals are due December 16, 2002. Job training grant proposals are due in late December 2002. This is a competitive process for funds to be made available in Summer 2003.

For details, visit us on the web at www.epa.gov/brownfields or www.yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bf.

On October 30, call in to a toll-free teleconference to learn more, ask questions, and discuss potential proposals. Please contact one of the individuals below by October 24 to reserve your space on the call, or for more information.

EPA Region 10 Brownfields Team:

Timothy Brincefield:

brincefield.timothy@epa.gov

Susan Morales: morales.susan@epa.gov

Mike Slater: slater.mike@epa.gov

Call EPA toll-free at 1-800-424-4370

Update on Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site

FMC cleanup plan being re-evaluated

EPA is currently re-evaluating parts of the 1998 Record of Decision (ROD) to ensure the cleanup will protect possible future uses of the FMC property. EPA will require the company to perform a study of former working areas at the plant that were not included in EPA's earlier analysis because the plant was still in active operation. Cleanup alternatives for the slag pile and railroad area will also be re-evaluated. EPA will share a draft plan of the study with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. If you are interested in reviewing the draft plan, you may contact Linda Meyer, EPA Project Manager, at (206) 553-6636, or e-mail at meyer.linda@epa.gov for a copy.

Information from this study will be used to identify and select specific cleanup alternatives for the site, which will be proposed in an amendment to the 1998 ROD. The proposed ROD amendment will be provided to the community for review and include descriptions of the cleanup alternatives evaluated by EPA. A proposed ROD amendment is expected to be available for public comment by early 2004.

EPA considers design plans for work at Simplot

Although it is all one Superfund site, EPA manages the Eastern Michaud Flats site as three distinct cleanup areas, or *Operable Units*: *The FMC Operable Unit*, the *Simplot Operable Unit*, and the *Off-Plant Area Operable Unit* which includes areas impacted by both FMC and Simplot operations. This summer, the Consent Decree for proposed work at the Simplot Operable Unit, including a schedule and performance standards, was entered in federal court.

In August, Simplot submitted the design for the groundwater extraction system that will address contaminated groundwater under the facility. Plans were also submitted for paving the gypsum stack roads to reduce dust, and for excavating waste from the former dewatering pit. EPA, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the State are reviewing the plans, with work expected to begin in May or June 2003.



Stormwater workshops prepare construction industry for inspections

Nearly 200 people attended a series of workshops aimed at helping construction industry workers better understand requirements for complying with stormwater regulations set by EPA and local agencies. The workshops, held in Idaho Falls, Boise, and Coeur d'Alene, are part of an effort by EPA to help the construction industry prepare for upcoming stormwater inspections that will be conducted at construction sites in Idaho during this fall and winter. Topics covered at the workshops included:

- Which construction activities require a storm water permit;
- What the permit responsibilities are and how to apply for coverage;
- What changes to the permit will be coming in March 2003;
- Common pollutants in construction site runoff;
- Descriptions of erosion and sediment controls appropriate for construction sites in Idaho;
- What to expect during an EPA inspection of your construction site.

For more information, please contact Jeanne Odell at (206) 553-6919, or e-mail at odell.jeanne@epa.gov.

EPA's Tribal Office Director meets with Shoshone-Bannock leaders

This summer, Sandra Johnson, the new Tribal Office Director at EPA Region 10, traveled to Fort Hall to meet with members of the Fort Hall Business Council. The meeting was an opportunity to introduce Ms. Johnson to the Council, and for her to learn first hand about some of the important environmental issues facing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. When asked by Chairman Edmo to outline her priorities as she begins her tenure as Tribal Office Director, she listed health issues, impacts to tribal water resources, commitment to working with tribal governments, and learning more about tribal priorities.

Local students spend a day with EPA

Last spring, over 120 students in Jan Flandro's seventh grade science classes at Franklin Jr. High learned about EPA and how pollution can affect people, plants, and animals. EPA's local representative Sue Skinner led interactive discussions with the students, building on what they had already been learning in class about concepts such as how ecosystems work and why biodiversity is important. At the end of each class, students were challenged to make a difference by sharing what they had learned about the environment with friends and family over the summer.

To learn more about the information in this newsletter, or to be added to or removed from the mailing list, please contact:

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Other Local Environmental Agencies:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Pocatello Regional Office
444 Hospital Way, #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203
(208) 478-3823

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

Visit EPA's Region 10 website for more information about EPA activities in your community, and elsewhere in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

www.epa.gov/r10earth



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Region 10

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